

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 5, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on September 28, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Record of Decision Amendment and Preliminary Closeout Report
Signed, Metamora Landfill Superfund Site, Metamora, Michigan**

On September 27, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) signed a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment and a Preliminary Closeout Report (PCOR) for the Metamora Landfill Superfund site in Metamora, Michigan. The ROD Amendment changed the groundwater remedy from the 1990 ROD (a pump and treat system) to monitored natural attenuation (MNA). Switching from groundwater pump and treat to MNA is expected to save in excess of \$3 million. The PCOR was for the capping of the landfill, along with the incineration of numerous drums and their contents. At one point, the Metamora Landfill was one of the most costly Superfund sites in the country.

Contact: Thomas Williams (312-886-6157)

**Record of Decision (ROD) Signed, Shiawassee River Superfund Site,
Howell, Michigan**

On September 28, 2001, a ROD was signed for the Shiawassee River Superfund Site, Howell, Michigan. The selected remedy is estimated to cost \$500,000 and consists of the following: 1) excavation and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)

contaminated soil at the former Cast Forge Company (CFC) facility, and excavation or dredging of contaminated sediment and river floodplain soils along the Shiawassee River; 2) institutional controls on the CFC facility property to ensure that it remains zoned industrial; and, 3) post remediation monitoring (PCB sampling of the river sediment and floodplain soil) to ensure that natural recovery of the river is occurring.

An estimated 795 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be excavated from the CFC facility to meet the preliminary remediation goal (PRG) of 10 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). The river sediment would be remediated to 5 mg/kg PRG for the first mile only, with an excavation of around 1,590 cubic yards. One hotspot in the second mile, where PCBs were found at 100 mg/kg, would also be remediated to 5 mg/kg. Remediating the floodplain soil to meet the 10 mg/kg PRG would require excavation of approximately 1,755 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

The major potentially responsible party (PRP) at this site paid for remediation of the CFC and the river back in the early 1980's and was indemnified by the State of Michigan for any future remediation. The PRP has initially agreed to complete the remediation specified in the ROD.

Contact: Thomas Williams (312-886-6157)

Consent Decree Entered, Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives (Honeymead), Mankato, Minnesota

On September 5, 2001, a Consent Decree was entered in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota which settled a complaint against Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives (Honeymead) in Mankato, Minnesota. The settlement provides for the payment of a civil penalty of \$56,250 and the performance of two supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) with a total value of approximately \$300,000.

The complaint was filed for civil penalties and injunctive relief against Cenex arising out of its failure to have an approved Facility Response Plan; failure to have an adequate Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan; failure to file a response to an information request; and, having an unauthorized discharge of 2,000 gallons of soybean oil from the facility in February 1997.

The SEPs to be performed by Cenex will enhance the facility's spill prevention and detection capabilities. The first SEP will

automate the shutdown of 2 gates that are an integral part of Cenex's secondary containment. The gates are currently operated manually. The second SEP will replace the existing tank farm monitoring and control system with a modern computer system. This system will monitor potential tank level problems and will allow facility personnel to respond more quickly.

Contacts: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)
Peter Felitti (312-886-5114)

Settlement, Chicagoland Quad-Cities Express, Inc., Bedford Park, Illinois

On September 18, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 settled it's first Clean Air Act (CAA) §112(r) Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA). The respondent in the case was the Chicagoland Quad-Cities Express, Inc. facility in Bedford Park, Illinois. Chicagoland was in violation of the CAA §112(r)(7) for failing to submit their Risk Management Plan by June 21, 1999. The final penalty under the ESA was \$3,798.00.

Contact: Bob Mayhugh (312-886-5929)

Five-Year Review Signed, Electrovoice Superfund Site, Buchanan, Michigan

On September 28, 2001, a 5-year review was signed for the Electrovoice Superfund site in Buchanan, Michigan. The 5-year review recommends the following: 1) continued maintenance and inspection of the cap in the lagoon soil area in accordance with the Record of Decision and Consent Decree; 2) completion of an analysis of the need for any future operation of the subsurface ventilation and volatilization system, and if future operation is necessary, an evaluation for rehabilitation and/or replacement of the system, which was designed as a pilot system and which has exceeded its useful life; and, 3) continued performance of quarterly and annual groundwater monitoring for trichloroethylene (TCE) and vinyl chloride until the monitored natural attenuation plan for the off-property groundwater is implemented.

Contact: Gigang Van Nguyen (312-886-6726)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Federal Response Plans Reviewed, Chicago, Illinois

Facility Response Plan (FRP) 5-year reviews have been completed

for 122 FRP sites that were approved in 1996. Each facility received a 28-page checklist that depicted deficiencies found during the review. Each facility has been given 60 days to either resubmit a plan with corrections or to submit section(s) that were found deficient.

In addition, FRP initial reviews were completed for 49 sites. These facilities never received an approval or correspondence since 1995. Each facility received a deficiency letter which requires them to resubmit their plans or the corrections to their plans within 60 days.

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Drill Response Exercise, East Sparta, Ohio

On September 17-20, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 participated in an Industry-led Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) drill. The drill was sponsored by Marathon Ashland Petroleum (MAP) LLC who provided more than 100 exercise participants. Mark Durno, Jim Augustyn, Jason El-Zein, served as exercise players; Sheila Calovich, Chris Christenson, and Michelle Jaster served as exercise evaluators; and, Joe Fredle served on the exercise development committee and as an exercise player. Marjorie Easton from Region 3 also participated in the exercise as a player.

The scenario involved the MAP East Sparta, Ohio, to Midland, Pennsylvania, 8-inch product line. The leak originated in Pennsylvania (Region 3), but primarily impacted Ohio (Region 5). This exercise was designed to drill the MAP Level 2 Response Team, the MAP Emergency Strike Team (EST), and the Federal, State and Local response to a major oil spill. One of the U.S. EPA exercise objectives was to see how responders from Region 5 and Region 3 worked together during a response. (Although U.S. EPA Regions and their methods of accomplishing the same goal differ, there was good coordination between the two Regions.) The drill also showed MAP how various U.S. EPA Regions may require different information and documentation. Region 5 also took the opportunity to exercise the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located on the fifth floor of its Chicago office. (The exercise exposed some operational problems with the EOC that are in the process of being addressed.)

Contact: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)

Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Exercise Design Team Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On August 30, 2001, a meeting was held of the design team for the 2002 Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) exercise in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The exercise is scheduled for Spring 2002, and will be in the coastal zone, which is the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl and Ann Whelan of the Oil Planning and Response Section attended the meeting for U.S. EPA. Also in attendance were members of State of Wisconsin and local emergency management officials, as well as representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

Exercise Meeting, Madison County Local Emergency Planning Committee Chair, Edwardsville, Illinois

On September 20, 2001, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, and Karen Kirchner, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team II (START II), met with Mr. Jack Quigley, the Madison County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Chair, to discuss a proposed LEPC emergency operations plan exercise. The proposed table top exercise would center upon the hypothetical release of a hazardous chemical from a facility, as found in the facility's Risk Management Plan release scenarios. Local facilities interested in the exercise, along with the proposed chemicals to be addressed, were discussed in detail. Mr. Quigley also provided an alternative functional exercise scenario to the table top exercise proposal. This would involve testing the County's Community Alert Network telephone notification system. START II was contracted to work with the LEPC to research, develop, write, and help conduct the exercise. This would be the first of these exercises conducted in Illinois.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Thank You Letter (Verneta Simon), White River, Muncie, Indiana

Below are excerpts from a letter, dated September 14, 2001, to Thomas Skinner, Regional Administrator, from Dr. Betty Pogue Hadley, Professor Emeritus, Ball State University:

"I am writing to express...the sincere appreciation which my family and I feel for the work which has recently been completed by the EPA in removing lead contaminated soil from the river bank of our property on the White River in Muncie, Indiana. ...All of my contacts with the people working at every level on this project have been most positive. They are a group of real professionals. ...The work which was done here was executed with extreme care and consideration, not only for the environment, but also for the people and the concerns which relate to them.

I am especially impressed with Verneta Simon, P.E., On-Scene Coordinator for this project. I have had opportunities to observe her in a variety of situations. She was, and is, impressive under fire. In my estimation she could hold her own and represent the agency superbly under any conditions. This woman demonstrates excellent judgement in the whole range of work challenges. I regard her with high respect after watching her in action. ...Ms. Simon has won my admiration for who she is and what she represents. The EPA is most fortunate to have her services.

Again, all of us here want to say a big "Thank you" for the work you are doing. I am reassured that my life is safer and better because the EPA exists."

Contact: Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
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Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
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